

Advocacy Commends EPA's Decision to Delay the Draft IRIS Assessment for Hexavalent Chromium

On March 14, 2012, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commending EPA for adopting the recommendations of the external peer review panel for the draft IRIS assessment for hexavalent chromium, and for responding to small business requests to consider and incorporate forthcoming, and recently concluded, scientific studies into the assessment. Advocacy's letter includes the following comments:

- IRIS is a human health assessment program that evaluates risk data on effects that may result from exposure to environmental contaminants. IRIS compiles a database that describes the health effects of substances and contains quantitative and descriptive information on cancer and non-cancer effects.
- EPA will consider and incorporate forthcoming and recently concluded scientific studies into the hexavalent chromium oral assessment.
- EPA anticipates that the hexavalent chromium draft final oral and inhalation assessments will be released for public comment and external peer review in 2013.

For further information regarding this issue, as well as a complete copy of Advocacy's letter to EPA, please visit Advocacy's website at: www.sba.gov/advocacy.